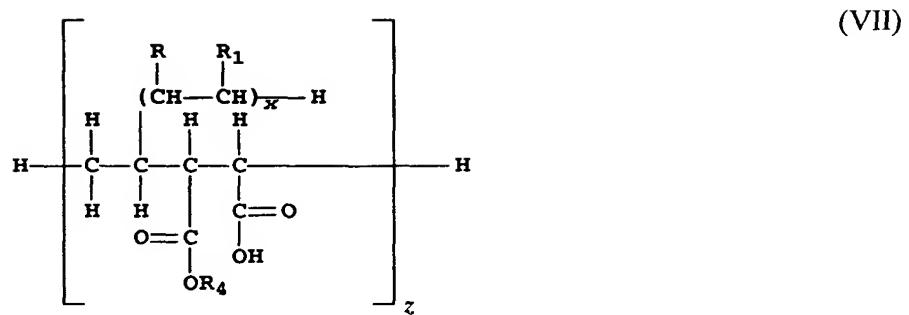


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a dye-donor element for thermal dye transfer comprising a support having on one side thereof a dye layer and on the other side a slipping layer comprising at least two waxes, a first wax that is a polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof; and at least one other wax.
2. The element of claim 1 wherein the polyolefin is derived from an α -olefin containing between about two to about eight carbon atoms.
3. The element of claim 2 wherein the α -olefin is ethylene and/or propylene.
4. The element of claim 1 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids are those having between about 3 to about 12 carbon atoms.
5. The element of claim 1 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, ester or anhydride is maleic acid, ethylmaleic acid, propylmaleic acid, isopropyl maleic acid, fumaric acid, methylenemalonic acid, glutaconic acid, itaconic acid, methylitaconic acid, mesacomic acid and citraconic acid and their mixtures, as well as the corresponding esters, anhydrides and mixtures of such acids, esters and anhydrides.
6. The element of claim 1 wherein the solid polymer is of the structural formula:



wherein R and R₁ individually represent hydrogen or a C1 to C10 alkyl group, x is 9 to 75; R₄ is a hydrogen or a C₁-C₃ alkyl group; and z is between from about 5 to about 20.

7. The element of Claim 1 wherein the solid polymer is an α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer.

8. The element of Claim 7 wherein the solid polymer is an α -olefin maleic anhydride polyethylene graft copolymer.

9. The element of Claim 7 wherein the α -olefin of the α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer has a chain length of C10 to C50.

10. The element of Claim 7 wherein the α -olefin:annhydride of the α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer is 1:1 to 1:4 in terms of weight.

11. The element of claim 1 wherein the solid polymer is a copolymer of an α -olefin and isopropyl maleate.

12. The element of claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of α -olefin:isopropyl maleate in the copolymer is about 1:1.

13. The element of Claim 1 wherein the other wax is an olefinic wax.

14. The element of Claim 1 wherein the other wax is does not comprise a polymer derived from an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof.

15. The element of Claim 1 wherein the other wax is a synthetic wax that is primarily a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon.

16. The element of Claim 1 wherein the other wax is selected from the group consisting of a mineral wax, a vegetable wax, an animal wax or a synthetic wax that is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon polymer.

17. The element of Claim 1 wherein the ratio if the first wax to the other wax is 5:1 to 1:10.

18. The element of Claim 1 wherein the other wax is a saturated hydrocarbon polymer.

19. The element of Claim 1 wherein the other wax is a linear low molecular weight polyethylene.

20. The element of Claim 1 wherein the other wax is a branched hydrocarbon with a number average molecular weight of no more than about 10,000 and a melting point or softening point of no more than about 120°C.

21. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a number average molecular weight of at least 300.

22. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a number average molecular weight of 400 to 5000.

23. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a number average molecular weight of 1000 to 3000.

24. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a melting point or softening point of 35 to 110°C.

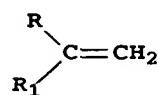
25. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a melting point or softening point of 50 to 100°C.

26. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a degree of branching of about 4 to about 15.

27. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a degree of branching of about 5 to about 10.

28. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon is a poly- α -olefin wax.

29. The element of Claim 20 wherein the branched hydrocarbon comprises a polymerized alpha-olefin prepared from alpha-olefins having the formula:



where R is C₆ to C₅₀ alkyl and R¹ is hydrogen or C₆ to C₅₀ alkyl, wherein the polymerized alpha-olefin has a number average molecular weight of 500 to 5000.

30. In a process of forming a dye transfer image comprising a dye transfer image comprising:

- (a) imagewise-heating a dye-donor element comprising a support having on one side thereof a dye layer and on the other side a slipping layer comprising a lubricating material, and
- (b) transferring a dye image to a dye receiving element to form said dye transfer image, the improvement wherein said lubricating material comprises a solid polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof; and at least one other wax.

31. The process of Claim 30 wherein the solid polymer is an α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer.

32. The process of Claim 30 wherein the α -olefin of the α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer has a chain length of C10 to C50.

33. In a thermal dye transfer assemblage comprising

- (a) a dye-donor element comprising a support having on one side thereof a dye layer and on the other side a slipping layer comprising lubricating material, and
- (b) a dye receiving element comprising a support having thereon a dye image-receiving layer,

said dye-receiving element being in a superposed relationship with said dye-donor element so that said dye layer is in contact with said dye image-receiving layer, the improvement wherein said lubricating material comprises a solid polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof; and at least one other wax.